

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 4 and 5 as follows:

The exemplary system 100 further includes a TV 24, such as a digital television, having a display 26 for displaying programming, an EPG, etc. The STB 22 may be coupled to the TV 24 and various other audio/visual devices 27 ~~devices 26~~ (such as audio systems, Personal Video Recorders (PVRs), Video Tape Recorders (VTRs), Video Cassette Recorders (VCRs) and the like), storage devices (e.g., hard disc drives) and Internet Appliances 28 (such as email devices, home appliances, storage devices, network devices, and other Internet Enabled Appliances) by an appropriate interface 30, which can be any suitable analog or digital interface. In one embodiment, interface 30 conforms to an interface standard such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1394 standard, but could also be wholly or partially supported by a DVI interface (Digital Visual Interface - Digital Display Working Group, ~~www.ddwg.org~~) or other suitable interface.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 7 as follows

The STB 22 may also be coupled to an independent service provider (ISP) host 38 by a suitable connection including dial-up connections, DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) or the same transmission medium 20 described above (e.g., using a cable modem) to, thus, provide access to services and content from the ISP and the Internet. The ISP host 38 provides various content to the user that is obtained from a content database 52 ~~content database 42~~. STB 22 may also be used as an Internet access device to obtain information and content from remote servers such as remote server 48 via the Internet 44 using host 38 operating as an Internet portal, for example. In certain satellite STB environments, the data can be downloaded at very high speed from a satellite link, with asymmetrical upload speed from the set-top box provided via a dial-up or DSL connection.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 3 as follows:

While the above exemplary system including STB 22 is illustrative of the basic components of a digital set-top box suitable for use with the present invention, the architecture shown should not be considered limiting since many variations of the hardware configuration are possible without departing from the present invention. The present invention could, for example, also be implemented in more advanced architectures such as that disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/473,625, filed Dec. 29, 1999, ~~Docket No. SONY-50N3508~~ entitled "Improved Internet Set-Top Box Having an In-Band Tuner and Cable Modem" to Jun Maruo and Atsushi Kagami, U.S. Patent No. 6,757,909, issued June 29, 2004. This patent application describes a set-top box using a multiple bus architecture with a high level of encryption between components for added security. This application is hereby incorporated by reference as though disclosed fully herein.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 14, line 10 as follows:

Referring now to **FIGURE 4**, the process carried out in the current embodiment for downloading the Content associated with the URL to the user of the set-top box 22 is illustrated. This process begins at 404, after which the user views entertainment content with an embedded URL at 408. At 414 the user selects the URL for downloading, and at ~~422 set-top box~~ 420 set-top box 22 sends a request to the service provider 10 for the page or other content associated with the URL (e.g., using a cable modem). The service provider, using a programmed processor, checks for the Content associated with the URL in the interactive content cache 70 at 426. If the Content associated with the URL is present in the interactive content cache 70 at 430, the Content associated with the URL is sent to the set-top box at 438 (e.g., via cable modem), and the Content associated with the URL is displayed on display 26 at 444. The process ends at 448. In the event of the Content associated with the URL requested is not present at 430, the service provider head end downloads the Content associated with the URL from the Internet at 434, and control returns to 438. As previously described, secondary URLs can also be cached at 438 or upon access by a first user.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 14 and 15 as follows:

In an alternative embodiment, the URL associated with the interactive content may be stored in a local cache, for example forming a part of disk drive 172 or memory 176, of the set-top box 22. In this embodiment, process 300 as illustrated in **FIGURE 3** is modified only in that the downloading of the Content associated with the URL to cache at 328 is carried out to a local cache in set-top box 22. The download of the page to the STB cache can be carried out using a data channel and cable modem, for example. With reference to **FIGURE 5**, a process 500 is illustrated in which the user retrieves selected Content associated with the URL from local cache. The process starts at 504, after which the user views entertainment content with an embedded URL at 508. At 514 the user selects the URL for display of associated information. At 520 set-top box 22 ~~522 set-top box~~ checks for the Content associated with the URL in the local interactive content cache of, for example disk drive 172. If the Content associated with the URL is present at 528, the Content associated with the URL is displayed at 534 and the process ends at 538.